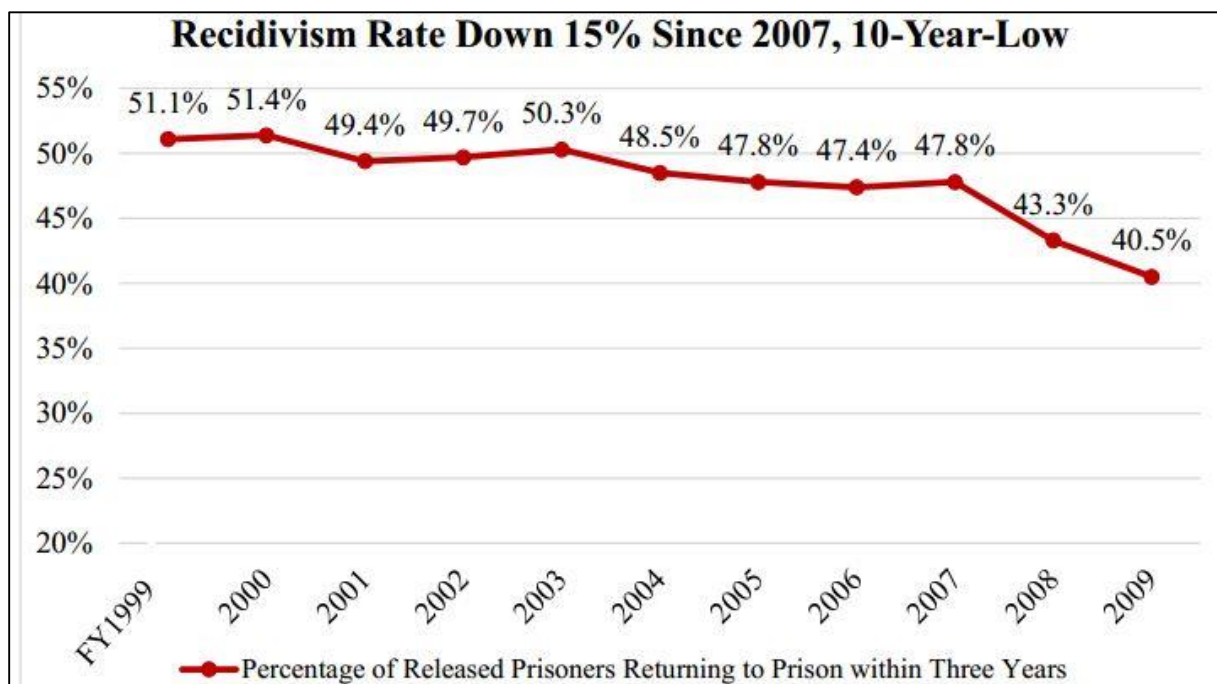


Meeting Summary

Re-Entry Stat: DPSCS (lead agency), DHMH, DHR, DLLR, DHCD, MDVA, DJS, and MVA

The following is a summary of the issues that were discussed at the stat on Prisoner Re-entry on November 20, 2013. Analysis is provided by StateStat.

- Recidivism Down 7.3 Percent, 700 Fewer Marylanders Returning to Prison each Year.** The O'Malley-Brown Administration, together with Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), drove down Maryland's recidivism rate 7.3 percent, from 47.8 percent to 40.5 percent, from FY07 to FY09. This represents a more than 15 percent relative decrease in just the first two years of the Administration. That equates to approximately 700 fewer Marylanders returning to prison each year. The recidivism rate is the rate at which prisoners return to jail or probation within three years of their release. Since it is calculated in three-year cycles the latest available data are from FY09.



- Maryland House of Correction Deconstruction Leading to Jobs for Inmates.** Secretary Maynard reported that the ongoing deconstruction of the Maryland House of Correction (MHOC) has led to tentative post-release employment for many of the inmates working on the project. Barring bad behavior or other unforeseen circumstances, current inmates are set to begin work with the project's contractor as soon as they leave prison. Given that a main goal of the deconstruction is to provide the hands-on training which inmates need for post-release employment, the Secretary sees the deconstruction as a substantial success.

- **Baltimore City Jail Re-Entry Strategies Project.** DPSCS, the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services (MOHS), and Choice Research Associates (CRA) have been collaborating this year on a large-scale analysis of Baltimore's jails and the needs of these facilities' populations with respect to re-entry. One of main recommendations in the 102-page final report is to develop six re-entry "tracks" for jailed offenders, taking into account risk level and length of stay. This empirically driven recommendation uses data on jail population and needs, gathered from February to September 2013, across all Baltimore jails, in order to create six re-entry plans suited to returning citizens' needs. DPSCS reported that it intends to fully implement all of the suggestions from the Re-Entry Strategies Project, greatly expanding the amount of re-entry planning for each release from Detention facilities and implementing all re-entry tracks.
- **Statewide Re-Entry Resources: Directory.** A recurring theme at the previous re-entry stat (August 19th 2013) was that there are a plethora of public, non-profit, and private groups across Maryland which work specifically with ex-offenders on successful transition to the community and on providing services to returning citizens. These include workgroups focusing on multiple re-entry domains each, e.g., this Re-Entry Stat group, a re-entry workgroup at the Laurel Regional Workforce Center (LRWC), and a re-entry workgroup in Baltimore County. However the majority of work being done to help returning citizens comes from hundreds of groups with narrower focus, for example providing temporary housing, skills training, substance abuse treatment, child care, or support groups. At the previous stat the question was raised of how to determine which services are being offered to which ex-offenders in what locations – as well as what gaps and overlap exist.
- To determine the extent of re-entry services currently offered across the state, Terri Robinson-Ricks, DPSCS's Partnership Coordinator, provided lists of hundreds of groups working with ex-offenders, representing non-profits as well as the public and private sectors. The full directory is included as the attached file "Maryland Ex-Offender Resources-MDCSL-15JUL13." The data come from the Maryland Community Services Locator (<http://www.mdcs.org/>). All included groups have indicated they work with ex-offenders in particular. In response to a request from StateStat Ms. Robinson-Ricks has broken out the list by category, for 18 domains.
- **Maryland Community Services Locator.** MDCSL is hosted by CESAR at the University of Maryland. GOCCP agreed to ask UMD for analytics data, to determine who is and is not using the site. A primary reason for this is to see whether ex-offenders are using CESAR.
- DHR reported that 2-1-1 has a tool called CIM which maps calls for service, by service, broken out by jurisdiction. CIM covers United Way's service area in Central Maryland. 2-1-1 can put callers in touch with a live caller 24/7, DHR reported. DPSCS case managers use 2-1-1 to connect returning citizens and other supervisees to information and services. DHR suggested that DPSCS expand its use of 2-1-1.
- In the first week of December, 2-1-1 will begin operating a new phone queue for individuals with criminal histories. When dialing 2-1-1, being put in touch with ex-offender services will be a number option.

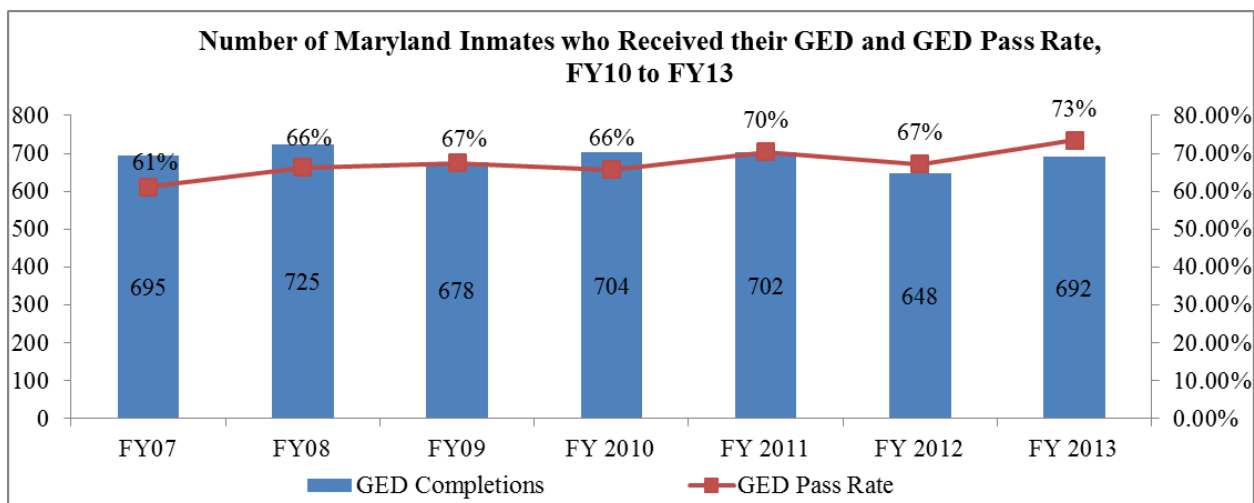
- **Data Tracking: Short and Long Term Plans.** Since the previous stat, representatives from almost all agencies in attendance today met twice to discuss plans to populate the Re-Entry data template, both in the short term (i.e., until OCMS is fully implemented), and in the long term (i.e., once OCMS is online). These two re-entry metrics meetings were held on October 4th and October 24th. This two-phase approach for reporting re-entry data is necessary because OCMS is needed to report program participation inmate by inmate. Until OCMS is fully launched next year, however, the metrics to be reported in the short-term will begin to evaluate the operations of the agencies' programs targeting ex-offenders (e.g., MWE participation and substance abuse treatment after release). OCMS will then allow the effects of behind-the-fence program participation on post-release outcomes (e.g., recidivism and employment) to be determined.
- ***Evaluations will be Limited to those with Accurate SSNs.*** Data tracking plans, as discussed on 10/4 and 10/24, are shown in the table below. The panel should note that DPSCS and DLLR have emphasized that the data they can generate will be limited to individuals who have provided accurate SSNs. While this will allow the Re-Entry template to evaluate program performance and post-release outcomes over time, individuals with accurate SSNs are more likely to be able to find employment and enroll in programs and services post-release. Therefore the phase-two re-entry data, i.e., the data dependent on OCMS, will show better re-entry outcomes than what the whole universe of returning citizens experiences.
- ***SSN Matching for Wage and Employment.*** Data on ex-offender one-stop participation will be added to the re-entry data template. Secretary Howie suggested the data could be used to provide insight on whether re-entry specialized staff need to be at any particular one-stops. However DLLR has concerns that the data will not show the rate at which returning citizens are being connected to one-stops -- mostly showing changes to how many ex-offenders are self-identifying. Director Power confirmed that StateStat will interpret the data one-stop participation data carefully.

Populating the Re-Entry Data Template: Short and Long Term Plans			
Timeframe	Planned Data to Track	Limitations	Next Steps
Short Term (until DPSCS fully implements OCMS)	1. (DLLR) Life Skills classes offered by facility	None	DPSCS was asked on 10/4 to add a field in OCMS to track Life Skills
	2. (DHMH) # of total inpatient substance abuse patients	None are reserved for ex-offenders. DHMH has no set program capacity, so evaluating whether treatment programs are filled to capacity is currently impossible.	DHMH should evaluate the total capacity of inpatient and outpatient treatment, if possible.
	2. (DHMH) # of total outpatient substance abuse treatment patients		
	3. (DHMH) # of substance abuse treatment patients who have been referred from a criminal justice agency	Breakdown by facility is not available, just by type of criminal justice institution.	DHMH was asked on 10/4 to begin tracking these data in the Re-Entry template
	3a. Referred by a prison		
	3b. Referred by a maintaining facility		
	4. (DLLR & DPSCS) Monthly MWE participants who are ex-offenders	None	DLLR has these data already and will add them to the Re-Entry template.
Long Term (when OCMS is fully implemented)	1. (DLLR & DPSCS) For quarterly cohorts of DPSCS releases, the agencies agreed to track how many One-Stop users are employed and how many are not.	At the re-entry metrics meetings on 10/4 and 10/24, the agencies emphasized that these data can only be as good as the SSNs given by inmates. Evaluating employment outcomes for ex-offenders is limited to those who have accurate SSNs - a group more likely to be able to find employment.	DPSCS will provide DLLR with a test list of releases with SSNs, against which DLLR will perform a test wage match.
	2. (DLLR & DJS) For quarterly cohorts of DJS releases, the agencies agreed to track employment status by quarter.		DJS will provide DLLR with a test list of releases with SSNs.

- DPSCS and DLLR see Question of Enforcement as Barrier to Mandatory One-Stop Reporting.** The agencies were asked as a follow up item to the previous stat whether it is feasible to make one-stop participation mandatory for returning citizens. DLLR responded that while this could be accomplished if additional funding were available, a hurdle to implementation would be determining consequences of failing to report to one-stops. DLLR reports that Prince George's County attempted to implement such a requirement for its supervisees, but most of them failed to ever show up at one-stops.
- Director Power agreed that there are significant obstacles to making reporting mandatory. Sec. Howie reported that the best way would be to make mandatory reporting a condition of Community Supervisions. Sec. Maynard said that DPSCS sends its unemployed supervisees to one-stops. As a follow up item DPSCS will begin to track supervisee referrals to one-stops by CS staff. To begin to track this DPSCS will need to add a field to Case Notes or OCMS to consistently and systematically track interactions with supervisees surrounding employment and one-stop participation. Sec. Howie reported that without meaningful process through CS, a supervisee's data is limited to coming from voluntary reporting. Therefore Howie suggested creating clubs or groups, e.g., a released veterans' job club. Sec. Maynard still wants to have volunteers stationed at one-stops working to connect supervisees to one-stops, and directing them from CS offices to one-stops. As a follow up item DPSCS will report on developing this volunteering initiative.
- Despite this hurdle, DLLR is exploring other options to drive up rates of returning citizen one-stop and MWE participation. The agency met this week with its Department of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) to discuss pre-registering inmates in the Maryland Workforce Exchange while they are still incarcerated. DLLR

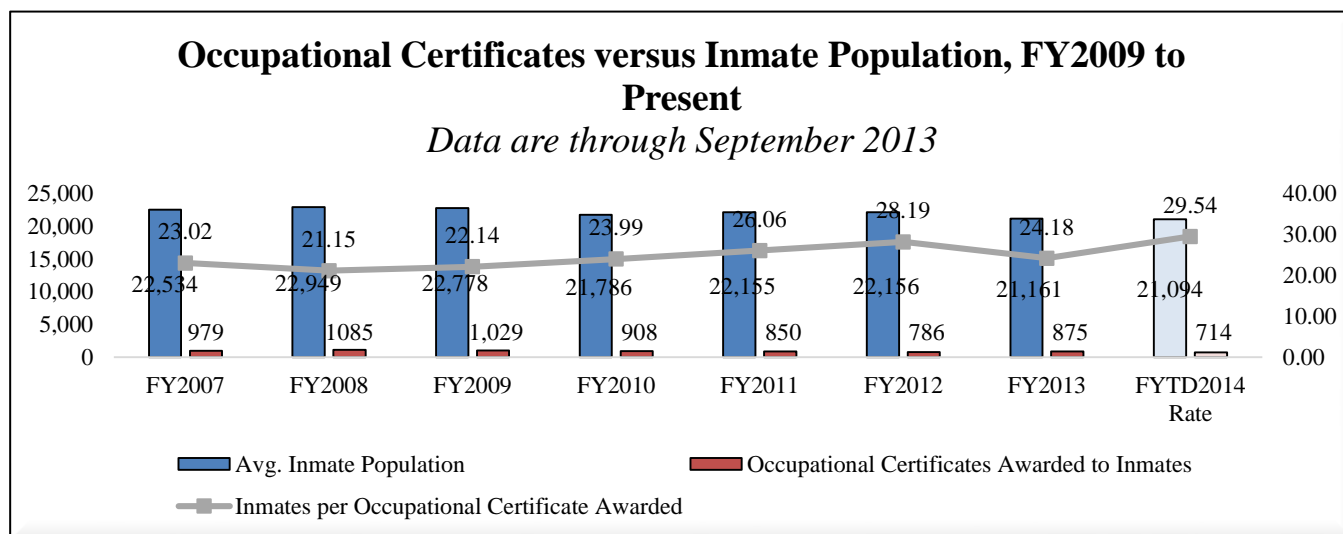
also mentioned the possibility of conducting one-stop or MWE video orientations with inmates before they are released.

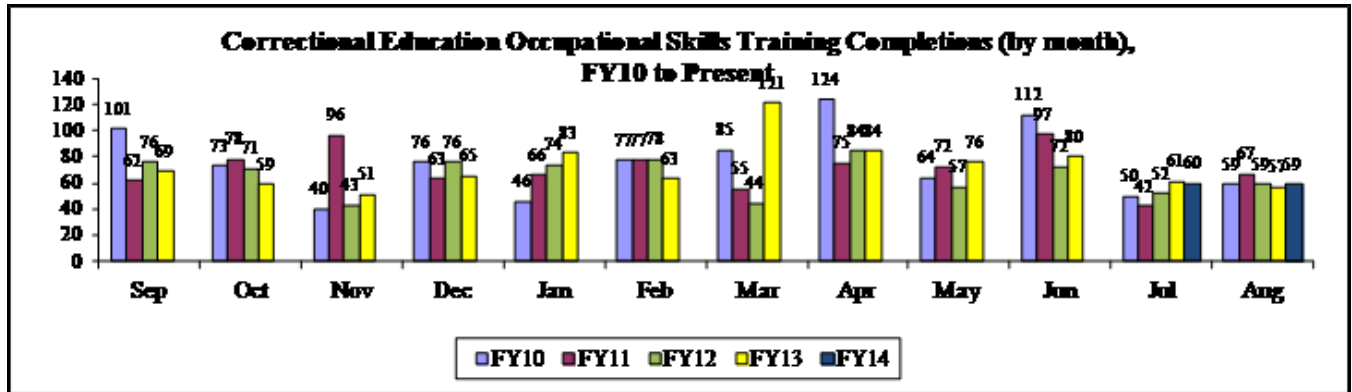
- **Most Maryland Public Housing Wait Lists are Closed.** In response to the Housing Authority of Baltimore City's (HABC's) successful re-entry housing voucher program, DHCD was asked as a follow up item to the previous re-entry stat whether there are there any opportunities to set up similar programs through other Maryland public housing authorities. DHCD responded that sequestration has severely limited public housing authorities' funds. PHAs have been forced to implement steep cuts to their existing programs. As a result the vast majority of Maryland PHAs have closed their public housing wait lists for all groups, including ex-offenders. Even worse, DHCD reports, in order to meet these budget reductions, the majority of PHAs cannot fill their vouchers once they have been vacated. In other words, PHAs are using voucher turnover to meet their required budget reductions.
- **"Moving to Work" Status.** DHCD noted that HABC is a "Moving To Work" agency, which is a federal designation which allows them to set aside housing vouchers for ex-offenders. Other Maryland PHAs lack this designation. PHAs cannot set aside vouchers for specific purposes in most cases; only HUD can. Out of Maryland PHAs, only HABC has the "Moving to Work" designation which allows them to set aside their vouchers as they see fit. "Moving to Work" is a federal designation accompanies HUD funding. As a follow up item DHCD will provide guidelines for applying for Moving to Work status. DHCD suggested that it work with MOHS (the Mayor's Office of Human Services) and StateStat to track the progress of the 200 people to whom Baltimore has issued housing vouchers. As a follow up item StateStat will contact MOHS to discuss beginning such a study.
- **GED Passing Rate Among Inmates has Increased by 19.7 percent Since FY07.** The number of inmates who received their GED last year increased by 6.8 percent from 648 people to 692. The GED pass rate also increased from 67 percent in FY12 to 73 percent in FY13, which represents the largest one-year increase over the past seven years. DLLR expressed concern in October that it had not signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) about allowing online GED testing inside prisons. DPSCS reported that it has signed the MOU and is sending it to DLLR. The agencies plan to have the MOU fully implemented in January. Separate from the MOU, this project requires a new contract with the GED vendor. DPSCS is waiting for the vendor to proceed with the new contract. DPSCS agreed to provide a full timeline for executing a new contract, as a follow up item.
- DLLR Secretary Howie also said last month that he would be briefing the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on October 30th about the move to online GED testing in general.
- DLLR indicated that it has been working well with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and DPSCS to gradually go through a list of priority vacancies that will continue to be filled. DLLR stated last month that it would post the job announcement for a full-time plumbing instructor at the Occupational Skills Training Center (OSTC) shortly.



- Rate of Occupational Certificate Issuance in Line with Previous Years.** At the previous re-entry stat DLLR attributed FY13 improvements in per inmate occupational certificate issuance to increased staffing levels. DLLR's data show that the rate of inmates per occupational certificate issued was driven down from 28.19 in FY12 to 24.18 in FY13. In other words, in FY13, DPSCS had approximately 24 inmates for every certificate issued, an improvement from FY12.

FYTD14 data show a significantly worse rate of certificate issuance. However the data only cover August and September 2013. Given the month to month variability in certificate issuance, the FYTD14 rate of certificate issuance, shown in the graph below, does not necessarily show what the FY totals will be. For additional context DLLR provided a graph showing that in August and September, occupational certificate issuance was in line with rates in these months in previous years. DLLR fully expects that the improvements in per-inmate issuance will continue this fiscal year.





- No Maryland Online Education.** DPSCS has no online education programs for inmates currently. DLLR reported that the main hurdle is lack of internet bandwidth. Even for the MWE (Maryland Workforce Exchange) site and the other sites, the content is downloaded in advance and inmates are viewing offline content. Dir. Power asked to what extent internet access can be improved. Sec. Maynard noted that instructors come to facilities to give in-person college-level courses (as well as the other educational programs). DLLR stated that despite Maryland's lack of internet access for inmates, other states look to Maryland as a leader in internet access. Most states have no internet access for inmates whatsoever and our limited access is seen as a model. Eric Beane asked if any vendors are offering new programs for online education for inmates. As a follow up item DPSCS will survey whether any vendors are offering this kind of program, and survey the other states to see if any are offering new online education programs.
- DataLink Expanded to More Counties.** DHMH is matching arrest data to mental health data through DataLink to better inform prisons and jails facilities (including those of DPSCS) of incoming detainees with histories of mental health disorders. When there is a match, DHMH adds this information to DPSCS files or to local detention centers' files. This program started with BCDC, but now ValueOptions also sends the feed to Corrections, as well as Howard and Charles County facilities. There are no specific technological prerequisites, DPSCS reported; data matched can be received through EHR (Electronic Health Records) or in a spreadsheet. It does require an MOU be implemented with any facility which wishes to participate. DHMH has approached all counties on this. Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Wicomico, Worcester, and Harford Counties are working through implementing this with ValueOptions. DHMH met with the MD Correctional Officers' Administration Association in the past month to discuss this. Prince George's Co. has expressed interest but they are not yet developing an MOU. DPSCS reported that there is a DataLink subcommittee on the Mental Health Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The DataLink subcommittee has developed a toolkit for participation for distribution to all MD counties. The toolkit helps to standardize agreements across counties. The workgroup has also been working to develop standardized outcome measures for all of the counties to use.

- **Veteran Re-Entry Associate Program Relaunching.** Following a lapse in funding, in January MDVA will be relaunching the program, which connects veterans incarcerated in DPSCS to mentors and volunteer organizations in the community. The policies and procedures for this program, as well as promotional material, have all been fully developed, MDVA reported. In January MDVA will begin its outreach campaign to find veteran mentors, who will be put in touch with returning citizens within 60 days of release, to stay as a mentor until a year after release. Mentors will also relay information from MDVA on state and federal benefits applications.